

# ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

[rdxa.com](http://rdxa.com)



ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2006

## Regular Meeting

October 17<sup>th</sup> 19:30 local

300 Jay Scutti Boulevard  
Gander Mountain  
Meeting Room

### Top Band Time

*The bottom of the sunspot cycle means its time to give serious consideration to DXing and Contesting on 160 meters. Learn the hard-won, contact-making secrets of successful Top Band operation from Chris, K2CS and Charlie, WB2HJV.*

*Also on tap: find out about the Mystery Antenna and how it got its name!*

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## Social after the Meeting

Scotch & Sirloin  
Winton Plaza

### President's Soapbox

By Dave Wright - N2CK



Hello All,

Once again, I'm writing my article on the day before it needs to be submitted. Talk about pressure! I think it may be time to create a monthly reminder.

I did participate *very* briefly in the CQWW RTTY contest. When I say briefly, I do mean briefly—like a rousing 10 contacts! I did not work any locals, and nothing

spectacular for DX. One thing I encountered while setting up is that I noticed when transmitting—I couldn't hear my transmitted signal. The power meter indicated I was putting out RF. Imagine my chagrin when I discovered the monitor button was turned off on the rig. Seeing as the last contest I participated in was the CQ

WPX SSB, it stands to reason that I would have turned off the monitor function. Given the QRM, which exists in phone contests, I have developed the habit of not listening to my signal when I transmit—to give my ears a break. Somehow, I just couldn't muster the enthusiasm to stay with it. Because of this poor showing, I suspect I'll need to turn in my Ranger certificate. I was surprised by the lack of signals on 20m. At 11:00 local, I expected to find the band packed with signals. My operating time on Saturday afternoon was cut short as I needed to put my tree stand up, and do some trimming of branches to make shooting lanes.

Are you proud of your shack, and antenna farm? Well, it's time to show it off. I encourage all of you to submit some pictures to Mike to show off your efforts. Hey, you've worked hard for your privileges, searched for and procured the ultimate transceiver, and struggled to put together the ultimate antenna farm—now's your chance to show it off. I plan on snapping some pictures—but I need to do a "little clean up" first. It'll be nice to see a clean desk—even though it will be short lived. Make sure you include a description of the equipment.

As announced in the newsletter last month, next year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club. The Board has been working on plenty of events to help celebrate this most prestigious occasion. Some of the ideas which have been suggested include a Club operating event at the Antique Wireless Museum (wonder if we can work out an arrangement with the curator?), usage of W2RDX/60 by Club members, and ultimately culminating in a formal dinner meeting—just like those who came before us used to hold. This is certainly an exciting time for the Club, and it's been quite the education for me to learn about the beginnings of this Club. I hope you share my excitement as we move forward on this celebration.

We are looking into putting together a station for the Science and Technology days at the Rochester Museum and Science Center again this year. For those of you not familiar with this event, it is held between Christmas and New Years. There are all kinds of hands-on exhibits for the kids to experiment with. I know quite a few of you have been involved in this in the past, and it's quite a rewarding endeavor. We'll let you know more and issue a call for volunteers as we get more details worked out. If you have some time to spare, and enjoy working with kids—this is a match for you!

I've been waiting for the maple and walnut trees in my yard to start shedding leaves—not that I want to get started with raking duties, but I want to get my other wire antenna up and situated before we descend down into the dark months. I've found that it's much easier to position your antenna(s) when the leaves are off—so you

can see and shoot for the correct branches. Speaking of that, one thing you may want to keep your eyes open for as you get dragged to garage sales by your significant other (or happen to find at a hamfest—but that's different!) is a stout fishing pole with a heavy duty spinning reel. It doesn't take much, just a 7 ft. rod capable of casting a 2-3 ounce sinker and a reel, which can be spooled with 200+ feet of 20-pound test line. Simply pick the branch, and cast away. If you make a mistake, remove the sinker, and retrieve your line, and give it another shot.

I'll close for now as the clock is ticking on my lunch, and I need to get this on the way to Mike. Again (not to sound like a CD with a scratch in it) I encourage you all to submit an article for the newsletter this year. Mike (and the rest of us as well) will appreciate it!

## October Contests

ON Contest 6m, CW, SSB -----	1 Oct
Oceania DX Contest, SSB-----	7, 8 Oct
Oceania DX Contest, CW -----	14, 15 Oct
The Makrothen Contest, RTTY -----	14, 15 Oct
JARTS WW RTTY, RTTY -----	21, 22 Oct
CQWW DX, SSB -----	28, 29 Oct

More Contest Info

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/index.htm>

## November Contests

HA QRP, CW -----	1-7 Nov
Ukrainian DX, CW, SSB, RTTY-----	4, 5 Nov
ARRL Sweepstakes, CW -----	4-6 Nov
WAE DX, RTTY -----	11, 12 Nov
Japan Int'l. DX, SSB-----	11, 12 Nov
LZ DX, CW, SSB -----	18, 19 Nov
ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB -----	18-20 Nov
CQWW DX, CW -----	25, 26 Nov

## December Contests

ARRL 160m Contest, CW -----	1, 3 Dec
TARA RTTY Melee, RTTY-----	2 Dec
ARRL 10m Contest, CW, SSB -----	9, 10 Dec
Russian 160m Contest, CW, SSB -----	15 Dec
OK DX RTTY, RTTY -----	16 Dec
RAC Canada Winter Contest, CW, SSB -----	30 Dec
Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge-----	30, 31 Dec

## Top Band Time



## October RDXA Program

Well, we're there – the **bottom** of the cycle. It's official since there are now indications of the start of the next cycle. As we know, the bottom is the best time for the top, Top Band, that is!

RDXA has lined up a couple of our recognized top band achievers who have

learned the ways of making significant contacts on this challenging and rewarding band. **Chris K2CS** and **Charlie WB2HJV** will be passing along their hard-won secrets of getting those 160 meter Qs in the log. Many of us know some of the basics, but nothing beats getting the big picture straight from those who have been there, and who continue to add to their contact lists.

Forget it, you might say, there's no way I can put up anything for 160m on my property. Ah, but there is. Included in the program will be a report on the **Mystery Antenna!** Yep, that's what it's called—we didn't just make it up to add spice to the program. Once you hear about the Mystery Antenna and its capabilities, you'll see how it got its name.

## Propagation *AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22, October 1995*

Solar Flux Range----- 70 – 92

**General** – We are now in the peak of the fall season. DX paths are shifting and will continue to shift. 15 meters is as good as it will get, and is mostly dead. African stations show with good regularity, and this path is open nicely to the states through most of the afternoon. 15m is especially worth watching on weekends, but European signals are still few in number. A beam on 17 meters would help in working some of the paths that are missing on 15m. 17m should remain somewhat open through the bottom of the solar cycle. 17m and 20m are now the best bands for daypath work.

**20 Meters** – On 20m, the morning path to S.E. Asia is mostly gone, and now favors the east coast where it is more of a polar path. Since the grayline is now almost directly over the pole, we will have narrow pipelines into central Asia in the morning and evening. As the grayline continues to shift, we can expect our main path to the Orient to occur in the early evening. There is news of an operation from Burma, but no specific information about a substantial expedition at this time. African paths are open for most of the afternoon and into the evening. Morning DX on 20m now favors Europe, and includes the Middle East. The peak of the window is kinda short, and later in the morning only the loudest Europeans are copyable. (This means that the East Coast will have Europe all to itself during DX contests.) As signals fade in the late morning, it is a good idea to move to 17m if you have an antenna there. 15m will sound a lot like 10m: the heavy action on these bands during contests will be for Caribbean and South American multipliers.

20m now closes well before midnight. The further north you live, the earlier the band closes. On the other hand, the band stays open quite late in tropical regions and in the southern hemisphere. This means you can work into these areas late in the day, and these will be the last paths to close. The last Asian path to close is usually to Western Siberia – UAØ.

**40 Meters** – Noise levels on 40m have dropped substantially since the summer, and signals are better. This is a nice band to Europe in the evening, with paths open to Russia in the early evening. It is also an excellent source for African signals. The Asian opening, of course, is in the morning before and after sunrise.

**80 Meters** – 80m is opening, but there is not a lot of activity from Europe yet (perhaps on SSB, but I don't tune there). Some of the African regulars from last season are starting to appear on the low bands. I hope every body has their EWEs ready by now--it's going to be a great season on 80m and 160m.

73, de Roy - AD5Q / Houston  
<http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

## Twenty-seven Day Space Weather Outlook Table

Issued 2006 October 10

US Dept. of Commerce NOAA

UT Date	10.7cm Radio Flux	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2006 Oct 11	75	5	2
2006 Oct 12	72	5	2
2006 Oct 13	72	5	2
2006 Oct 14	70	15	3
2006 Oct 15	70	20	4
2006 Oct 16	70	10	3
2006 Oct 17	72	5	2
2006 Oct 18	75	5	2
2006 Oct 19	75	5	2
2006 Oct 20	75	10	3
2006 Oct 21	75	20	4
2006 Oct 22	75	10	3
2006 Oct 23	75	8	3
2006 Oct 24	78	5	2
2006 Oct 25	78	5	2
2006 Oct 26	78	5	2
2006 Oct 27	75	10	3
2006 Oct 28	75	20	4
2006 Oct 29	75	5	2
2006 Oct 30	72	10	3
2006 Oct 31	72	8	3
2006 Nov 1	72	5	2
2006 Nov 2	72	5	2
2006 Nov 3	72	5	2
2006 Nov 4	72	5	2
2006 Nov 5	72	5	2
2006 Nov 6	72	10	3

For more see: <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/Data/index.html#alerts>

### Not your Grandfather's Ham Radio

*Amateur Radio in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* By Alan Masson - K6PSP

This was the title of the keynote speech given by David Sumner, Executive VP and CEO of the ARRL, at the Society of Broadcast Engineers SBE-22 Convention that I attended recently in Verona, NY. Also present was Chris Imlay, W3KD, ARRL General Counsel. David compared the equipment of the early years of amateur radio with that in use today, noting that the ARRL will this December celebrate 100 years of voice over radio, first demonstrated by Reginald Fessenden in Canada in 1906. The ARRL's "Hello" radio theme will have its own website <http://www.hello-radio.org>. David noted that even after 100 years, the amateur radio and broadcast communities still face some similar challenges in common, such as BPL, in which FCC decision makers seem to be under pressure to make decisions that do not have technical foundations.

Among the less-known aspects of amateur radio that David described were the new experimental license for LF work on 505-510 kHz at one end of the spectrum and microwave operation at up to 241GHz. David himself is an active microwave operator on 10 GHz, encouraged by his wife as an activity that gets him out of the house and into the fresh air. His own distance record is 300 miles. He compared the amateur's quest for conditions of anomalous propagation to achieve such results, with the broadcaster's need for reliable propagation.



**K6PSP and K1ZZ** at the September 26-27 SBE22 Broadcast & Technology Expo and National Meeting in Verona, NY.

Several aspects of radio sports were mentioned: ARDF—Amateur Radio Direction Finding—very popular in Europe and increasingly in the US. David showed a picture of three young winners standing on an Olympic-style podium to receive their prizes. HST—High Speed Telegraphy—is popular in Eastern Europe especially among young operators, rather than the caricature of hams aged 50 and over. Whereas T. R. McElroy was reputed to be the fastest human receiver of code in the 1930s, today's best young operators have doubled his record to over 150 wpm. WRSC—the World Radio Sport Championship, held in Brazil in July—was an event in which 46 two-person teams competed to make the maximum number of contacts in 24 hours. In order to provide them with a level playing field, the organizers erected 46 identical antenna systems consisting of a tower with a log periodic and a 40 meter 2-element beam for each team, distributed across an area of Brazil about the size of Connecticut.

In terms of the latest amateur radio technology, David described the current introduction of SDR—Software-Defined Radio—and the work of Joe Taylor, K1JT, a retired radio astronomer, who has written the WSJT software for reading sub-audible moonbounce signals at 20 dB below the noise level. David said he was glad that he was speaking to the SBE and not to FCC policy-makers, and didn't need to explain what a decibel was!

### Contest Commentary

**CQWW RTTY DX, N1OKL** – I operated about 24 of the allotted 48 hours and worked W1TY and N2WK. I saw print from K1PY and N2OPW, but did not catch up with them. I thought that signals were generally weak overall, and propagation was very selective. I made no contacts in the central Asia and Far East zones. I did manage Hawaii (who called me on 80m Sunday morning), but no Alaska. Made 2 contacts with ZL, one on 20m, the other on 40m (he called me I think). I did not get zone 12, which surprised me; heard no stations on from Chile, nor did I see any spots for them. Worked very few Brits, which also surprised me. Nordic countries were rare, at least in my log. I worked mostly S&P because I was having trouble hearing stations that would call when running. I



think this was a case of over-reaching my ability to hear. Though my wire antennas are good, they offer only modest gain in comparison to directional arrays or a rotatable yagi. Thus, with a kW, I am loud, but I can't hear the weak ones calling me so well, especially when propagation conditions are poor. I did manage a couple of good CQ runs on Sunday...after all the big guns had thinned out the bands and there were more folks listening than calling. All in all, a fun event. I really do need a better FSK interface though. I have to hit the PTT switch to release rig keying on 20m; what a pain! I could also use an antenna whose direction favors WNW and the polar paths to the Far East. In fact, I already have a location for this new wire figured out. Now all I have to do is to get it up before the snow flies! 418 Qs, 192,456 points.

**CQWW RTTY DX, N2OPW** – I was able to participate in the CQ WW RTTY contest this year. Ranger Rick was #1 in the log. I'm not a big gun in any contest. I only have dipoles and my IC-706 with 100W, and with some of the antennas needing some adjustments I sometimes am only putting out 70W. But it all worked for the entire contest, no failures. Spent most of the time S&P and went to CQing when the bandmap was all red. Propagation was not the greatest, but what can you expect near the bottom of the solar cycle? I could hear the VKs, JAs and the ZLs, but they cannot hear me on my low dipoles.

I finished up at 195,278 pts, 49 Zones, 117 DX, and 85 States, for a total of 251 Mults. I put in about 26 hrs of the 48 hr. contest. Guess I'm getting too old to do all 48 straight. See you in CQ WW DX SSB.

## Marconi Calling

<http://www.marconicalling.com/introsting.htm>

*For those with an interest in the history of wireless communication, a visit to the new **Marconi Calling** website is a must. Assembled from the extensive archives of the Marconi Company, the site is a superb on-line museum. The site features text, images, audio, and video. Check it out. Ed.*

From the introductory page...

"In the autumn of 1999, Marconi plc took the decision to commission an on-line museum based on the company's unique archive. Dedicated to Guglielmo Marconi and the company's early history, the collection is a treasure trove of equipment, photographs and documents that only a few have ever seen.

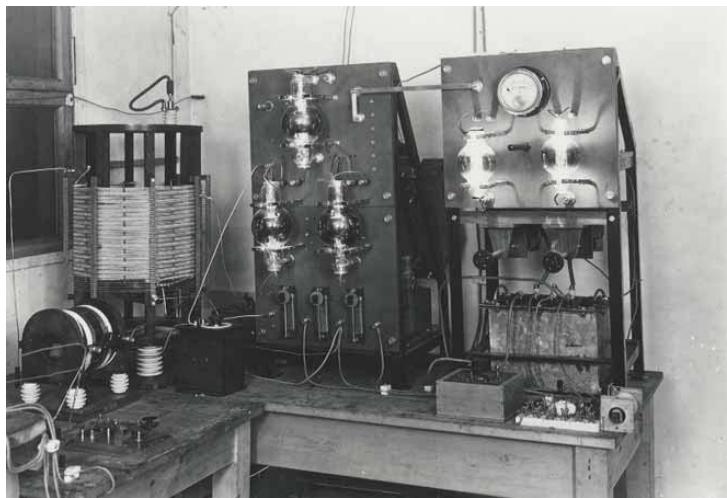
Marconi is a major global provider of communications and information technology solutions, working at the leading edge of technology developments such as Broadband. It therefore seemed only natural to open up this archive to the world through the medium of the world wide web.

Putting the entire archive on-line was never a realistic ambition. However, careful planning and work by the company Archivist Louise Jamison and historical consultant Gordon Bussey has ensured that the site covers the most important issues. The site provides access to the cream of the archive and the depth and breadth of material is designed to cater for any with an interest in the history of wireless; from the school project to the mature enthusiast to the academic researcher.

Named Marconi Calling, the visual style of the site pays homage to the period of the Italian Futurists and the German Bauhaus, artistic periods of the early 20th century that celebrated science, invention and industrial manufacture. It is also a style that lends itself perfectly to Flash technology used on the internet.

Marconi Calling is designed as a highly interactive site and provides a number of intuitive ways of accessing information. It requires the latest version of the Flash plugin."

Selected excerpts from Marconi Calling...



The experimental transmitter **2MT** installed inside the broadcast station at Writtle, Essex, UK.

Writtle, a village just outside Chelmsford, was the location of the first regular public broadcast programme. The Company, began a restricted service in February 1922.

The circuit used was almost identical with that of a standard Marconi telephone set of the time. The transmitter fed a four-wire antenna 250 ft long and 100 ft high, and originally radiated on a wavelength of 700m. Initial broadcasts consisted of a weekly half-hour programme, scheduled for Tuesday evenings between 8pm and 8.30pm. The ex-army hut was given the call sign **2MT Two Emma Toc** and from here Captain P.P. Eckersley would entertain all who could tune in.

The station closed on 17 January 1923 with full honours and was acknowledged as providing a reference point for early radio amateurs and creating an enthusiasm, which developed into the world of broadcast entertainment.



The **2LO** transmitter at Marconi House, The Strand, London, c. 1922.

**2LO** was the broadcast transmitter at Marconi House. A permit was received authorising the establishment of this second transmitter not long after **2MT** began transmissions from Writtle in Essex.

The permit allowed transmission of speech for a maximum time of one hour daily using radiated power of not more than 100 watts. At first musical items were not allowed, but this changed later, and the permissible power was increased to 1½ kW.

This second station was allocated the call sign of **2LO**. The transmitter was designed by H.J Round, and alongside its studio, was housed in a room at the top of Marconi House.

## 160 Meter Experiment

from the ARRL Letter  
Vol. 25, No. 40  
October 6, 2006

### 160-Meter Experiment Will Explore Marconi's 1901 Transatlantic Success

A 160-meter beacon will take to the air this fall and winter from Cornwall, England, to explore how Guglielmo Marconi was able to span the Atlantic by wireless for the first time on December 12, 1901. Radio history says that's when the radio pioneer at a receiving station in Newfoundland successfully copied the Morse code letter "s" sent repeatedly by his team in the Cornwall town of Poldhu. The latter-day venture is a cooperative effort of the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club (PARK) in Cornwall and the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (MCRN). The Poldhu club's Keith Matthew, GØWYS, said the 2001 centenary of Marconi's achievement reopened discussion into the mechanism by which the 1901 spark transmitter signal propagated.

"The winter of 1901 coincided with a sunspot minimum, and it was realized that this coming December 2006 should show similar conditions to those of December 1901," he said. Just how Marconi was able to receive the transatlantic transmission has long been a topic of discussion and even controversy, especially given the frequency Marconi is likely to have used, thought to be between 800 and 900 kHz, and the time of day, afternoon in Newfoundland.

"The beacon will help understand the possibility of low sunspot number transatlantic medium wave propagation 24 hours a day, but especially 1400 through 1800 UTC," Matthew said. The 160-meter amateur band is being used, he explained, because Marconi's original frequency today is a highly populated piece of the radio spectrum.



Marconi and his receiving apparatus at Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland, December 1901.

"It was realized that a clear channel would be necessary on the nearest amateur band, and a temporary license to operate a beacon on 160 meters has now been obtained," Matthew announced. Starting on or about November 1 and continuing through next February, the GB3SSS beacon will transmit on 1960 kHz.

The 1960 kHz beacon will use a two-minute transmit sequence starting at the top of the hour. It will consist of a CW identification followed by a series of carrier bursts, each reducing in power by

dB. An identification in PSK31 will follow. The transmit sequence will repeat at 15-minute intervals.



Marconi's 1901 Detector as displayed in the museum of the Italian Navy.

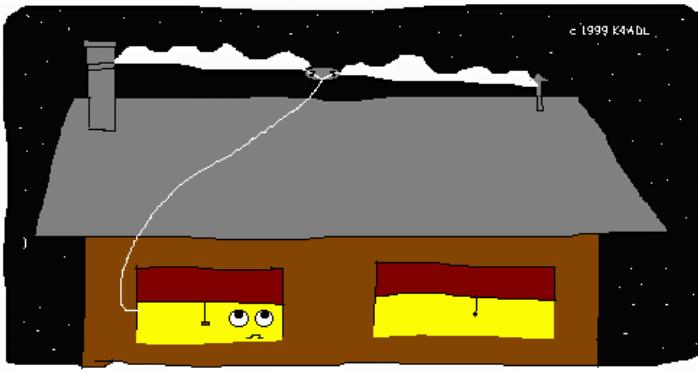
On the listening end in Newfoundland will be well-known low-frequency experimenter Joe Craig, VO1NA, of the MRCN, who lives near St John's. "This is a very exciting project," Craig said. "I am very grateful for the support from my fellow members in the club and our sister club, the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club." Craig offered his own observations on Marconi's 1901 feat in a 2001 article "Marconi's First Transatlantic Wireless Experiment," for The Canadian Amateur, the journal of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) <http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~jcraig/marconi.html>. Also monitoring in North America will be the Antique Wireless Association's W2AN club station in upstate New York.

ARRL member and radio history buff Bart Lee, KV6LEE, proposed the 160-meter experiment to test the feasibility of Marconi's 1901 claimed achievement. "Continuing cooperation between Canadian and British Amateur Radio operators can thus play a part in verification of one of the most interesting events in the history of our technology," Lee said in his article "A Plea for Timely Experiments" on the California Historical Radio Web site <http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com/photos53.html>. Lee and Matthew recently visited with Craig and other MRCN members in Newfoundland.



Cabot Tower atop Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland, present day.

E-mail beacon reception reports: [gb3sss@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gb3sss@yahoo.co.uk)



WILBUR ASSUMED HIS MAGNET-WIRE DIPOLE WAS INVISIBLE TO THE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, BUT THE FIRST SNOWSTORM OF THE SEASON PROVED HIM WRONG.

Courtesy of K4ADL – <http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/>

#### New DXCC Rule

from Chris Shalvoy - K2CS  
Atlantic Division DX Advisory Committee



For a number of years, it has been accepted practice to post DXpedition QSO information on a DXpedition Web site. Although this information is generally limited to callsign, band and mode, it has been useful in reducing the number of duplicate contacts in the DXpedition log. Publishing complete

QSO information, or information from which complete QSO information can be derived, on the other hand, threatens the integrity of the QSLing process, and is unacceptable. There must be some information that the station claiming the QSO provides based solely on actually being there when the QSO was made. If complete QSO information can be derived from information based on the DXpedition log, the QSL manager's job can be much more difficult if busted calls are involved. To help minimize potential difficulties, therefore, the following restriction has been approved by the Programs and Services Committee, and added to the DXCC Accreditation Criteria, Section III.

#### Section III Accreditation Criteria Rule 5 states:

**"The presentation in any public forum of logs or other representations of station operation showing details of station activity or other information from which all essential QSO elements (time, date, band, mode and callsign) for individual contacts can be derived creates a question as to the integrity of the claimed QSOs with that station during the period encompassed by the log. Presentation of such information in any public forum by the station operator, operators or associated parties is not allowed and may be considered sufficient reason to deny ARRL award credit for contacts with any station for which such presentations have been made. Persistent violation of this provision may result in disqualification from the DXCC program."**

It has become commonplace for DXpeditions to publish the band and mode for selected callsigns. While this reduces the overall integrity of the QSLing process slightly, it's a reasonable compromise. In almost every case, the new accreditation rule will change nothing. Publishing band and mode information for each callsign (as is now done) is perfectly acceptable. It is only the rare case where complete QSO information is published or can be derived from the published data that we are concerned about.

#### Approved DX Operations

from Chris Shalvoy - K2CS  
Atlantic Division DXAC

The following operations have been approved for DXCC credit:

KH8SI, K1ER/KH8, KS6FO/KH8, WH7S/KH8, K8YSE/KH8, AH7C/KH8 and KH6BK/KH8 – Swain's Island, for contacts made from July 28 through August 2, 2006.

TT8LN – Chad, operation from February 12 through June 5, 2006

9Q1D – Democratic Republic of the Congo (Also, 9Q1TB and 9Q1EK), current operation beginning September 22, 2006.

#### Amateur Radio Report and Order

ARRL Bulletin 19  
12 October 2006

#### FCC Releases long-awaited "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order

Ending a protracted waiting period, the FCC's Report and Order in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10, 2006. In it, the FCC adopted nearly all of the proposed changes in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released back in 2004. Specifically, the FCC has:

- Expanded the phone subbands in the 75 and 40 meter bands;
- Permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band;
- Permitted the use of spread spectrum on 222-225 MHz;
- Permitted amateurs to retransmit communications from the International Space Station;
- Permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam;
- Prohibited an applicant from filing more than one application for a specific vanity call sign;
- Eliminated certain restrictions on equipment manufacturers;
- Permitted Amateur Radio stations in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications;
- Clarified that "amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions";
- Deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for RACES stations;
- Deleted the requirement for public announcement of test locations and times.

In addition, the FCC took several other miscellaneous actions. In "refarming" the frequencies currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus licensees, the Commission increased the voice segments for General, Advanced and Amateur Extra licensees.

**On 75 meters, Generals** will be able to use voice from 3800-4000 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz. **Advanced** class licensees will be able to use voice from 3700-4000, an increase of 75 kHz, and **Amateur Extras** will be able to use voice from 3600 to 4000 kHz, a generous increase of 150 kHz.

**On 40 meters, Advanced and Extra Class** licensees will be able to use voice from 7125-7300 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz. **General** class licensees will be able to use voice on 7175-7300 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz.

**On 15 meters, General** class operators will have phone privileges on 21275-21450 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz.

The changes will go into effect 30 days after the R&O is published in the Federal Register.

## Big New Yagi at K2NNY

Paul, **K2DB** has completed installation of a brand new Mosley Pro 67B antenna at his Hickory Lake Contest Club station. This is one **big antenna**, as the photos below show. [*I think the "B" stands for big. Ed.*] The wingspan of the 40m element is a whopping 44 feet!



Mosley Pro 67B fully assembled and mounted on the tower prior to raising.



In the air, and on the air; the Pro 67B ready for contest and DX QRO QSOs.

## Low Band Adventures

*This month's Column of the Month details some members' notable operating experiences on the low bands.*

**Mike, N1OKL** – Way back when I was a teenager growing up in New Orleans, about 1967 or so, a group of us guys who were interested in radio and electronics got together and formed a Boy Scout Explorer Post dedicated to ham radio. The U. S. Navy 5<sup>th</sup> Naval District HQ was located in New Orleans near our homes, and the Navy kindly gave us permission to use one of the empty

buildings on base for our meeting hall. In addition, the Navy donated a pile of surplus gear to our Post.

About all I remember about this gear is that it was big, black, and heavy. As we sorted through the stuff, we discovered that what we had were two complete *mobile rigs*, each consisting of a receiver, VFO-controlled transmitter (both hollow-state), antenna matching units, remote control console, DC dynamotor power supplies, and all the interconnecting cables. For some reason lost to memory, these rigs operated on only a few of the ham bands: 80m, 40m, and I think, 20m. But, wow! We could operate mobile!

Several of us convinced one of the parents to let us put a complete rig in an old Buick station wagon. Remember station wagons? This bargemobile had a huge V8, and piloting it was like driving a double bed down the road. The AC had given up the ghost years ago, and no one but a bunch of crazy guys wanted to ride around in it in the sweltering New Orleans summer heat. Most importantly though, there was *plenty* of room behind the back seat for the gear. Plus, no one really cared what we did to car. Need a hole through the firewall for the DC power cable? No problem. Get the drill.

The receiver, transmitter, ATU and dynamotor power supplies pretty much filled up the rear cargo area. We lashed the remote control unit to the massive transmission hump in the front seat, and just threw the interconnecting cables over the seats.

Next, we had to decide on which of the three available bands to use. We chose 80m, figuring that'd be best for contacts around town, between our home shacks and the wally wagon.

For an antenna, we bought ourselves a brand new 15 foot long cane fishing pole, and wound about a zillion feet of wire from one end to the other. We rolled down the rear window, and wedged our fancy new whip antenna in a crevice in the cargo deck, then raised the window back up to wedge the whip in place at a suitably rakish angle. A wad of foam rubber padding around the pole as it exited the rear window completed the installation.

Wonder of wonders, when we fired it up, it all worked! The dynamotors made a satisfying whirring sound on receive, and really kicked into high gear when you keyed the mic. Our homebrew whip took power just fine once we got the ATU adjusted. And then we were off, tooling around the greater New Orleans area in our mobile ham radio chariot.

Contacts were strictly local, but we could work all our friends in their home shacks with no problems. The terrain in New Orleans is really flat, and I remember that we would sometimes loose signals as various objects got in the way of local propagation. So, we spent a fair amount of time driving back and forth across the two Mississippi River bridges, which are several hundred feet above sea level, and signals there were excellent. Many times we made the grand circuit out the Westbank Expressway to the Huey Long Bridge, then down through Mid City and the Garden District to the Greater New Orleans Bridge and back to the West Bank where we all lived.

The phone mode was AM, of course, but one of the guys who was a big CW op found a leg key in the pile of Navy gear and he would operate CW mobile. Now that was something to see!

We had a great summer operating 80m AM and CW mobile with our setup. We only snapped off our fishing pole whip once on a low overpass. But heck, a new cane pole only cost a dollar, and we still had all the wire, so it was no great loss.

And that, my friends is my low band story...or how I spent my 17<sup>th</sup> summer operating 80m mobile in and around New Orleans.

## RDXA Shack Tour

We continue our armchair tour of RDXA members' shacks this month with a visit to the QTH of Dave, N2CK.



The neat operating position in Dave's shack sports an IC-765 with 250Hz filters and the venerable Heathkit SB200 linear amplifier.



Grounding plate w/ 3 PolyPhasers mounted: one used for the tribander, one formerly used for the vertical and other antennas which were to be connected to the remote switch. Unfortunately, as Dave related in a previous article, PolyPhasers don't pass DC voltage, and he has currently bypassed the remote switch. Time to run a separate control cable, Dave.



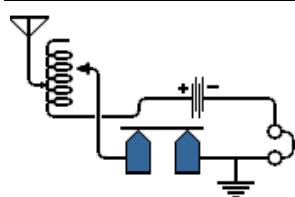
At the other end of the coax: a Mosley Classic TA-33 tribander, with plenty of room on the mast for another antenna, yet to be determined.



Gap Titan vertical mounted on the garage roof.



The Ameritron remote coax switch neatly mounted under the eave.



What is it? Can you identify this circuit from the early days of radio?



## ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION

W2RDX

rdxa.com

This Bulletin is the official organ of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles, tidbits, ham ads, etc. to Mike, N1OKL at the addresses below by the second Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's issue.

All those with an interest in amateur radio and DXing and contesting are cordially invited to any meeting and to join RDXA. Meetings are held at 19:30 local time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, September through June.

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